

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07

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R 190650Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS ELAB, AS

SUBJ: BASS DISTRICT, TASMANIA, BY-ELECTION: INTERIM REPORT

1. LABATT JUNE 19TH SPOKE WITH MRS KATHLEEN VENN,
SECRETARY, TASMANIAN BRANCH, AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY,
MRS VENN IS VERY DISCOURAGED ABOUT ALP PROSPECTS
IN BY-ELECTION, CHARACTERISING RACE AS FIFTY FIFTY
"WHICH LABOR JUST POSSIBLY MIGHT WIN".

2. MRS VENN ADDS THAT HER PARTY'S CANDIDATE, JOHN MACROSTIE,
IS HOPELESS AND WAGING "SCHOOL BOY" TYPE CAMPAIGN. APPARENTLY
IT NOW TURNS OUT THAT MACROSTIE HAD NO PERSONAL INTENTION OF
SEEKING PARTY ENDORSEMENT UNTIL MORNING OF SPECIAL PARTY
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CONFERENCE, CALLED TO SELECT CANDIDATE. MACROSTIE HAD NOT

PLANNED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, MUCH LESS RUN AS CANDIDATE, BUT WAS PERSUADED BY SOCIALIST LEFT TO ENTER HIS NAME AT LAST MINUTE.

3. MRS VENN, AFTER COMMENTING ON EXTRA-ORDINARY EFFORT BEING MADE BY LANCE BARNARD, WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALP LEFT WING, WHICH FORCED MACROSTIE ON STATE ORGANIZATION, IS NOW DOING NOTHING IN CAMPAIGN, AND ARE SAYING "AROUND TOWN" THAT THEY REGARD WHOLE CAMPAIGN AS "HUGE JOKE."

4. MRS VENN GETS SOME SLIGHT CONFORT FROM BEHIND SCENES FACTION FIGHTING WITHIN LOCAL LIBERAL PARTY. SHE CLAIMS CONSIDERABLE

CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY BEING WAGED BY FRIENDS OF FAVOURITE SON WHO WAS IGNORED BY LIBERAL PARTY ORGANIZATION IN FAVOR OF "OUTSIDER" LIEUT COLONEL NEWMAN, PRESENT PARTY CANDIDATE. THEY HOPE BENEFIT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE KENT, WHO IS LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER AND LOCALLY POPULAR.

5. COMMENT: IMPLICIT IN MRS VENN'S REMARKS WAS FACT THAT LABOR PARTY CAMPAIGNS, BEING RUN BY WORKERS IMPORTED FROM FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS, IN CANBERRA, IS LARGELY UNPOPULAR AMONG SLIGHTED LOCAL ORGANIZATION. EFFORTS OF FEDERAL PARTY AND PRIME MINISTER TO LEVER CAMPAIGN ISSUES BEYOND LOCAL CONTEXT, SEEMS HEADED FOR FAILURE. AT SAME TIME, LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE, WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY LOCAL BOY, LACKS APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES, LOCAL OR NATIONAL, AND IS DOING LITTLE TO HELP HIMSELF.
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